FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 DECEMBER 1984

Iran

Tehran Bomb Blasts — Two bombs exploded in Tehran on 25 and 26 December, according to IRNA. The first, which the agency claimed was planted by U.S. "terrorist agents," blew up at 1545 GMT on 25 December, killing 6 people and injuring 50 others. After giving details of this incident, IRNA stated that the United States had warned earlier that it would take revenge against Iran for supporting terrorism after the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner to Tehran on 4 December. The second explosion occurred in downtown Tehran at 0620 GMT on 26 December, causing damage but no casualties, IRNA reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian planes attacked an Indian tanker on 25 December, 70 miles northeast of Qatar, after it had taken on a crude oil cargo at the Saudi port of Ra's Tannurah, Baghdad radio charged. Sources in Manama cited by AFP noted that the plane was unidentified although the attack occurred in an area where Iranian planes are believed to have carried out previous strikes. The 25 December raid left a seaman wounded and badly damaged the ship, the sources added.

Lebanon

Security Plans — The first setback to the security plan in Tripoli occurred with a clash between gunmen and Army troops on 24 December that left three people dead, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported. Meanwhile, contacts over the last few days to prepare for carrying out the coastal security plan had positive results and eliminated all existing problems, Beirut radio stated, noting that Minister of Public Works and Tourism Walid Junblatt is holding talks in Damascus with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam concerning the security plan.

Al-Naqurah Talks — The National Assembly chairman denied in an *AL-SIYASAH* interview that the Al-Naqurah talks are negotiations, since negotiations imply that the parties are ready to make mutual concessions and "Lebanon has nothing to give Israel." On the Israeli side, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declared that chances of reaching an agreement in the talks are diminishing, according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, Ireland and Norway denied any knowledge of letters sent to Israel and Lebanon threatening to withdraw their forces from UNIFIL if the Al-Naqurah talks fail, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio revealed.

Israel

Reacting to a message from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz saying that the United States is not willing to grant Israel another $800 million this year because Israel has not done enough to solve its economic problems, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres declared that the matter of additional U.S. aid rests with Israel, which must correct its own economic mistakes "but not at unbearable cost," Jerusalem radio reported.

Jordan

Political and military officials in Amman denied a report by Palestinian sources that the Jordanian Army and a Fatah dissident group clashed in northern Jordan on 17 December, according to Jerusalem radio's Arabic service which cited an AFP report.

Syria

Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau Secretary 'Ali al-Turayki, who arrived in Damascus on 24 December for a short visit, met with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', JANA reported.

Also on 24 December a Soviet parliamentary delegation headed by Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities Avgust Voss stopped in Damascus for a short visit en route home from Kuwait, SANA disclosed.

Sudan

In a Cabinet reshuffle on 25 December, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri appointed five new ministers and a new head of the Higher Council for Religious and Awqaf Affairs, SUNA disclosed. As for clashes in the south, the information minister denied news agency reports about the fall of the town of Juba, WAKH reported.

Tikhonov Visit to Turkey

Turkey wants to develop its relations with the Soviet Union and to expand the two countries' economic and trade ties, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal affirmed at a dinner in Ankara on the first day of Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Tikhonov's official visit to Turkey, Ankara radio reported.

Afghanistan

Soviet and Afghan forces have launched two major offensives in eastern Afghanistan in an apparent move to seal the border with Pakistan, according to rebel sources cited by AFP. Rebel forces' reports described by IRNA claimed that nine military and cargo aircraft were shot down in Paktia Province fighting, adding that fierce battles were continuing in the Panjsher valley.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 249 *26 December 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Karmal Addresses Hazara Nationality Jirga ..... C 1
Barialay Speaks at PDPA Anniversary Ceremony ..... C 2
Panjsher Valley Troops Commended for Bravery ..... C 3
Tehran Arabic Broadcast on Military Operations ..... C 3
Karachi Radio on Mujahidin Military Operations ..... C 3
Clashes in Herat, Farah ..... C 3
Attacks in Zabol, Qandahar ..... C 3
IRNA Notes Afghan, Soviet Casualties in Fighting ..... C 3
180 Killed in Badghis, Herat ..... C 3
Aircraft Downed ..... C 4
AFP: Soviet, Afghan Forces Launch Offensives ..... C 4
Karachi Notes 'Fierce' Fighting ..... C 4

BANGLADESH

Ershad Calls Upon Opposition To Face Elections ..... D 1
Delhi: Opposition Plans Demonstrations 27 Dec ..... D 1
Trade Agreement, Barter Protocol Signed With PRC ..... D 1

INDIA

Gandhi Seeks To Strengthen Nonaligned Movement ..... E 1
Heavy Voter Turnout at Polls; Violence Occurs ..... E 1
Repoll for Lok Sabha ..... E 2
Disarmed Grenade Given to Vajpayee; Inquiry Called ..... E 2
Navy Begins Negotiations for Aircraft Carrier *[THE STATESMAN 17 Dec]* ..... E 2
USSR Buys Grain, Rejects Hard Currency Trade *[INDIAN EXPRESS 10 Dec]* ..... E 3

PAKISTAN

Zia Says Election Date To Be Announced Soon ..... F 1
AFP: Opposition Stages Protest in Karachi ..... F 1
6 Policemen Injured in Lahore Disturbance ..... F 1
'Strong Protests' Filed on DRA Air Intrusions ..... F 1
22 Dec Incident ..... F 1
25 Dec Attack ..... F 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Cabinet Abandons Roundtable Conference Proposals ..... G 1
Security Minister Outlines Military Operations ..... G 1
AFP: Tamil Separatists Attack Army Base ..... G 1
Police Inspector Shot Dead by Terrorists ..... G 2
President Appoints New Industries Minister ..... G 2

IRAN

Khamene'i Speaks at Ground Forces Ceremony ..... I 1

Velayati Meets Khamene'i, Musavi-Khamene'i ..... I 1
Bombings Occur in Downtown Tehran 25, 26 Dec ..... I 1
25 Dec Explosion ..... I 1
26 Dec Explosion ..... I 1
Death Toll ..... I 1
U.S. 'Agents' Plant Bomb ..... I 1
Majlis Deputy on Kuwaiti Airliner Hijackers ..... I 2
Majlis Committee Calls for USSR Pullout From DRA ..... I 2
Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques ..... I 2
No 1,951 ..... I 2
No 1,952 ..... I 3
1,500 Mobilization Force Troops Depart for Front ..... I 3
Iranian Clandestine on Guards Corps Repression *[Free Voice of Iran]* ..... I 3

Karmal Addresses Hazara Nationality Jirga
LD242056 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, took part in a grand jirga of the workers, elders, and representatives of the fraternal Hazara nationality at the Revolutionary Council Headquarters yesterday morning. He listened to their problems and proposals in a very sincere, free, and fraternal atmosphere.

Representatives of the Hazara nationality from 29 administrative units and the central regions of Afghanistan took part in this grand tribal jirga. Sincere and resolute assurance was given to the DRA party and government and to Babrak Karmal personally that the courageous working people of Hazara will spare no self-sacrifice in maintaining national unity, the protection of freedom, independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the homeland, and in defending the aspirations of the revolution, the prosperity of the people, and the blossoming of beloved Afghanistan — shoulder to shoulder with other fraternal tribes, clans, and nationalities, including Pashtuns, Tajiks, Uzbeks, Turkmens, Baluchis, Nurestanis, Pashaii, and others residing in revolutionary Afghanistan.

Babrak Karmal expressed pleasure at his participation in this great Hazara nationality jirga, and in a detailed speech told them: Our working people throughout the history of our country have suffered under the inhuman oppression of rulers, despotic kings, and antipopular regimes linked to colonialism and imperialism. In particular, our fraternal Hazara tribe and nationality has suffered many problems and difficulties resulting from the policy of racism, insult, and slavery. This is deeply felt in the heart of the true sons of Afghanistan. From the beginning of its formation, our party felt these pains and has expressed without fear and with a loud voice, through Parliament and street demonstrations, the poverty, illiteracy, disease, unemployment, problems, and pains suffered by the clans, tribes, and fraternal nationalities in our country, in particular the fraternal Hazara nationality.

The history of the national liberation movements of the Afghan people is witness to the fact that the fraternal Afghan Hazara people, shoulder to shoulder with other fraternal Afghan peoples, have unitedly and heroically fought in one national front against all occupiers, colonialists, and imperialists in order to maintain and consolidate the independence and freedom of our common homeland, and have defended the honor of the country. The capability for work, tolerance and patience, loyalty and sincerity, Afghan patriotism and love of the fraternal homeland, the courage and love for Afghanistan of the people of Hazara has gained the respect of other peoples of Afghanistan. We sincerely believe and witness every day that our Afghan Hazara people, shoulder to shoulder with their Afghan brothers, relentlessly defend with sacrifice and heroism the freedom and national independence, national sovereignty, and the gains of the April revolution. They firmly and courageously stand against the bands infiltrated from abroad. They also against reaction, imperialism and hegemonism, and will never fell prey to the slanderous and poisonous propaganda of the enemies of Afghanistan, who deceptively abuse the sacred religion of Islam. They themselves reject all the agents and servants who, from outside the country, have chosen murder, fratricide, discord, and robbery under the false name of the Islamic revolution and who are the enemies of the freedom, independence, and revolution of the people of Afghanistan.

Babrak Karmal added: It should be pointed out that the Afghan working people are sincere and faithful Muslims, and they do not need an Islamic revolution to be imported to them or to vote on the question of whether Afghans are Muslims or not. Of course the Afghan working people undoubtedly are Muslims. This is the reply of Afghans to American Muslims and their friends, the Israeli Zionists!

After the victory of the April revolution, revolutionary changes occured in our country for the creation of a new and prosperous Afghan society and for the well-being of the future of our children. Afghans enjoy full religious freedom. They observe and respect the Islamic religion, the laudible traditions and national customs, and have raised the banner of revolution against every kind of oppression, racism and colonialism.

The courageous workers of Afghanistan are revolutionary and Muslim people, peaceful and freedom-loving, independent and nonaligned, patriotic and internationalist, progressive and just. Our Hazara compatriots are not only courageous working people, but are also highly talented. I categorically state that those who feel responsible for the people of Afghanistan, for the PDPA and the April revolution, cannot overlook the great talents which our courageous Hazara brothers possess. I personally assure you, representatives, that henceforth not one of our working Hazara brothers will be subject to insults and racism, and together with the other nationalities of the country, the equality of their rights including political, economic, social, cultural and military, religious freedom, and their state and party rights, will not only be observed but will be guaranteed in practice.

Babrak Karmal added: It should be said with regret that because of the undeclared war which has been imposed against our country and people by imperialism and reaction, headed by the criminal U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism, the militarist circles of Pakistan, and the ruling reactionary circles of Iran, the time for uprooting all kinds of oppression and colonialism from our country has not yet come. However, we are resolutely forging ahead on this path and following the process. Afghanistan is the common homeland of all tribes, clans, and nationalities residing in Afghanistan. Henceforth, all our working Hazara brothers, shoulder to shoulder with other fraternal nationalities, with pride and honor will live in Afghanistan and, having great material and moral treasures, will actively take part in the construction of a new and progressive society here. After the victory of the April revolution, particularly its new stage, complete freedom of traditions, customs, religion and the performance of religious rites and historical honors of our fraternal nationalities from the political, economic, cultural and social viewpoints has been guaranteed; this freedom has the comprehensive support of our party and revolutionary state.

Babrak Karmal added: Past antinational and antipopular regimes, which pursued the policy of divide-and-rule, always

fanned the fire of discord and enmity among the people of our country and did not allow our free and working people to be united. But now the party and the DRA, with all the possibilities at hand, are trying to unite all tribes and nationalities residing in our country; like a powerful fist, we are building a powerful and progressive Afghanistan. I point out to my toiling Hazara brothers that Hazarehjat, is situated at the heart of our homeland, Afghanistan. Therefore, it should be an example of the unity and solidarity of all peoples and fraternal nationalities of Afghanistan, as it has been; and to have this historical honor for themselves and for their future generations, as they have had. Those who create discord between the Sunni and Shi'ite, both of whom are Muslims, are the servants of imperialism, the enemies of Islam, the enemies of the homeland, the enemies of Afghanistan.

Addressing the representatives of the fraternal Hazara nationality, Babrak Karmal said: You have studied the law on local organs of state power and adminstration. In accordance with this law, we are beginning election in the villages, localities, districts, subdistricts, and provinces of the country. The aim of our party and revolutionary state is that our people in every village, subdistrict, district, and province will elect from among themselves aware, patriotic, and worthy personalities who could truly serve the people so that the rule of the people is put in the hands of the people themselves and their representatives.

Babrak Karmal said: We must, more than ever before, be united and in accord, taking an active part in the building of a new and prosperous society of Afghanistan. We should not give an opportunity to the savage rebels and the bands infiltrated from abroad to keep our children once again in captivity, slavery, ignorance, and illiteracy.

At the end of his speech, Babrak Karmal said: I am honored to have taken part today in your great jirga, to listen closely to your problems, difficulties and demands. We are always in touch with the people, and our desire is to hear the pains of the people from the people themselves. This is our method of work. Today the party, state, and government are at your service. Put forward your pains, problems, and shortcomings without fear to the state and party leaders and be sure that within the possibilities at hand, your demands will be met.

Barialay Speaks at PDPA Anniversary Ceremony

LD260127 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Excerpts] A glorious session was held today in the Amani lycee gymnasium on making arrangements for the worthy glorification of the anniversary of the PDPA. The session was attended by a number of secretaries of the party's Central Committee, a number of officials responsible for various departments of the Central Committee, secretaries of the primary party organizations, Pioneer workers, senior members of the PDPA, deputy ministers and heads of the government departments, representatives of social councils, patriotic clergy, representatives of national entrepreneurs and intellectuals.

Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, spoke at this glorious session. He conveyed to all militant members of the party and Kabul's party committee the best wishes and congratulations of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, and greetings and warm best wishes of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

In his talk, Mahmud Barialay said: Today we are going forward on the eve of the glorious 20th anniversary of our party and in the cradle of the April revolution — Kabul city — we are going to mark this proud festival.

Mahmud Barialay said: Anniversaries are always days for renewing pledges and oaths; sons of our party make a pledge on this day because of the past for remedying mistakes, for correcting deviations and for offering respect to those who are not among us. They pledge to overcome shortcomings and weakness and stand up with courage for the freedom of the people and securing the interests of the people.

The correspondent of BIA reports that the basic reports of the session were then read by Zohur Razmjo, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Kabul city party committee:

The basic report explained the history, party struggles, activities and accomplishments of the city party committee and the major steps taken during the 7-year post-revolution period in various fields.

The basic report says that during the 7 years in Kabul city alone 131,837 persons graduated from the literacy courses; at the very moment more than 150,000 are learning to read and write in literacy courses. During the 27-year prerevolution period only 19,672 persons had taken literacy courses, with only 5,265 graduating.

In post-revolution years 43 schools were newly opened in the city for the realization of mass education and training.

The basic report adds that the construction enterprises of the city have pledged that the 23 projects under construction will be brought into service by 11 Jadi 1363 [31 Dec 1984], prior to the 20th anniversary of the PDPA; or to commence their construction work on this occasion.

Twenty-two projects were handed over for use. Moreover, the construction enterprises have given an assurance to hand over another 27 projects for use in addition to the above 22 projects. Thus, 50 projects will be completed by 11 Jadi.

The boiler facility and automatic telephone system for Macrorayon III, the training center for electric power, residential apartments for Kabul University lecturers, Khair Khana nursery and 10 classrooms for Payanda Mohammad-e Shahid school are among these projects.

In order to assist those citizens who had lost their houses in the old city due to the counterrevolutionaries' sabotage, the construc-

tion enterprises of the city voluntarily prepared to build 20 residential houses for thse citizens. The work on these houses was completed in Wazirabad project and were brought into service.

The message of Kabul city's party committee on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the PDPA, addressed to Babrak Karmal, was read out by the committee's deputy secretary at the end of this session. This message in part says:

The party, social and government organizatıcns of Kabul city, despite shortcomings and work difficulties, are honored to be the active executors of the party's resolutions and the instructions of its highly respected leader, you, Comrade Karmal.

Panjsher Valley Troops Commended for Bravery

LD252349 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Brigadier General Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Army's Political Affairs Department, today conveyed greetings and best wishes from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, to those officers, NCO's and men who achieved great victories in Panjsher valley in direct confrontation with the enemies of the people and revolution.

The BIA correspondent reports that Yasin Sadeqi expressed satisfaction for the bravery and courage of the men and personnel of Panjsher garrison, and praised those compatriots who are forging ahead with a just fight at the expense of their lives. He commended those who in this battle fought harder, and expressed appreciation for their exemplary work.

Yasin Sadeqi also presented commendation certificates to those officers stationed in Takana in the Panjsher; he highly assessed their activities in crushing the counterrevolutionary elements.

Speaking on behalf of the personnel of Takana unit, a number of the officers and men assured Yasin Sadeqi that they had resolutely decided to finish off the counterrevolutionaries. Cold weather, terrain difficulties, or other problems would not alter their determination. The present victory is merely the beginning of their work; they will not stand still at this point of victory and will forge ahead; they are confident of final victory, as their battle is a just battle and their determination is a national determination. They are fighting for their homeland, their country, and their revolution, and will victoriously reach the final objective.

Tehran Arabic Broadcast on Military Operations

GF211410 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Afghan Muslim revolutionaries killed 504 troops of the Soviet occupation forces and the ruling regime in Afghanistan and captured 17 others. This took place during a series of attacks against eight bases belonging to these forces in various parts in Balkh Province over the past 2 weeks. The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries also downed a helicopter.

They destroyed 33 tanks and personnel carriers in addition to 15 vehicles and an ammunition dump belonging to the Soviet invasion forces and the Afghan Government forces. They seized huge quantities of weapons and equipment.

Karachi Radio on Mujahidin Military Operations

Clashes in Herat, Farah

BK221523 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, mujahidin killed 28 Soviet-Karmal troops including three Soviet military officers in two separate clashes in Farah and Herat Provinces. Mujahidin also destroyed two tanks and two military vehicles.

Attacks in Zabol, Qandahar

BK231136 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have frustrated an attempt for conscription and forced a Soviet armored unit to flee near Shah Juy in Zabol Province. At least 16 Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed and a number of armored vehicles destroyed in the encounters, which took place earlier this month. The freedom fighters are also reported to have killed at least 14 Soviet-Karmal troops and arrested a number of them during clashes in Qandahar Province on the 12th of this month.

IRNA Notes Afghan, Soviet Casualties in Fighting

180 Killed in Badghis, Herat

LD231834 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan pr., Dec. 23, IRNA — Afghan Muslim revolutionaries killed 180 Soviet and Afghan forces in a series of military operations in Badghis and Herat provinces, it was reported Sunday. The Muslim combatants also demolished 18 tanks and armoured personnel carriers killing all their crew.

During one of these attacks in Kharestan and Sanjat areas of Badghis province, 63 Afghan troops surrendered to the Muslim mujahidin and handed over their arms and ammunition. There is an officer among them.

In another attack carried out last week upon a Soviet base in Siahwashan village near Herat airport and the Kash Kohneh district, the Muslim combatants broke the siege of the western part of Herat by the joint Soviet and Afghan forces. In retaliation, the joint forces brought the region under heavy fire as a result of which 117 defenceless Muslims of Herat city and its vicinity were martyred and a large number of others were injured.

Considerable amount of material damages were also inflicted.

Aircraft Downed

LD241855 Tehran IRNA in English 1851 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 24, IRNA — The Afghan Muslim mujahidin inflicted heavy financial and human casualties upon Soviet forces during a partisan attack in Khak Jabbar region, 30 kms from Kabul last week.

A high-ranking Soviet commander in Afghanistan lost his feet when he stepped on a mine during these clashes.

According to mujahidin sources here during other clashes in Pakitia state which [occurred] recently, the Afghan mujahidin shot down 7 military aircraft and helicopters as well as two cargo planes carrying winter equipment for Soviet and Afghan government forces during the past two weeks.

These reports also added that fierce battles still continued at Panjsher valley and regions near Golbahar, north of Kabul.

The Afghan Mujahidin also planted bombs at the residence of some members of the regime's intelligence agancy (KHAD) in Mazar-e Sharif province, which borders the Soviet Union, killing or injuring seven of them.

AFP: Soviet, Afghan Forces Launch Offensives

NC252045 Paris AFP in English 2026 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Islamabad Dec 25 (AFP) — Soviet and Afghan forces have launched two major offensives in eastern Afghanistan, apparently in a move to seal the border with Pakistan, Moslem resistance sources said today.

Several resistance sources quoting commanders in the areas reported that thousands of Soviet and Afghan troops backed by artillery units had launched a massive operation in Paktia and Konar provinces three weeks ago.

Resistance fighters had been forced to vacate a garrison at Chamkani, but they were putting up a strong resistance and had inflicted heavy casualties and captured dozens of Soviet and Afghan troops. Guerrillas had also maintained pressure on Afghan garrisons in the Jaji Mengal and Chamkani Districts along Pakistan's northwest frontier, and according to one resistance source very few members of a 400-man garrison at Konar had escaped after a guerrilla attack Sunday.

No independent confirmation of this report was immediately available, although Western diplomats said last week that fighting had been reported in Konar Province.

Karachi Notes 'Fierce' Fighting

BK261122 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] There are reports of fierce fighting in various provinces of Afghanistan on the end of the 5th year of Soviet intervention there. The Afghan mujahidin foiled two major attacks by the Soviet-Karmal forces in Paktia and Konar Provinces. During the fighting, the mujahidin captured dozens of Soviet-Karmal soldiers.

According to another report, the mujahidin maintained pressure on Afghan garrisons in Jaji Mengal and Chamkani Districts. Only a few of the 400 soldiers at the garrison succeeded in escaping after a mujahidin attack on Sunday [23 Dec].

Ershad Calls Upon Opposition To Face Elections

BK241733 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The persident and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has reiterated that a democratic government can only be established through elections. Addressing a huge public meeting at Nabinagar in Brahmanbaria today, the president said nobody can go to power through indiscipline, chaos, and lawlessness. He said those trying to create indiscipline and lawlessness through politics of violence and hartals [strikes] should seek verdict of the people in the elections. The country will be run by those who can muster the confidence of the people.

Referring to the pledge of establishing democracy within the shortest possible time, President Ershad said dates for the general elections were announced several times but had to be postponed to accommodate the viewpoints of some political parties. He said it appears from their attitude that they are afraid to face the people because of their past misdeeds and are creating obstructions in the way of transition to democracy. The president asked all quarters not to destroy national wealth by resorting to strikes in mills and factories. He posed a question saying if the nation failed to generate enough resources, how will it be possible to materialize our development programs to improve the conditions of the toiling masses? General Ershad called upon all quarters to come forward by sinking their petty differences to work hard for achieving self-reliance in every sphere of national life. With the visit of Nabinagar Upazila [subdistrict] headquarters, the president today concluded his tour to 300 upazilas out of 460.

Delhi: Opposition Plans Demonstrations 27 Dec

BK250404 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] The two opposition alliances in Bangladesh have announced that they will organize demonstrations on Thursday [27 Dec] to protest against the killing of three student leaders in Rajshahi. The protests are also against the repression of workers during the 48-hour general strike on Saturday and Sunday.

The leaders of the two alliances, Begum Khaleda Zia and Mrs Hasina Wajed, in separate statements have demanded the resignation of the military government of President Ershad. They said people have demonstrated their lack of confidence in it through the longest ever general strike.

Trade Agreement, Barter Protocol Signed With PRC

BK211005 Dhaka BSS in English 0937 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 21 BSS — Bangladesh and China today signed a long-term trade agreement (1985-89) envisaging exchange of goods worth 200 million dollars to 250 million dollars each way during the five-year perod.

The agreement came after a series of talks between the visiting Chinese delegation and Bangladesh officials on further expansion and diversification of trade and economic relations.

Under the five-year umbrella agreement, the 8th barter protocol between the two countries covering a period of one year beginning next January for exchange of commodities worth 32 million dollars each way was also signed.

The 7th barter which expires this month had provided exchange of goods worth 31 million dollars from either way.

Mr S. Hasan Ahmad, secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Mr Wang Pinqing, leader of the Chinese trade delegation and vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, signed the agreement and the protocol on behalf of their respective governments.

The Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, members of the delegation, high officials of Commerce Ministry and Foreign Ministry were present at the state guest house during the signing ceremony.

Gandhi Seeks To Strengthen Nonaligned Movement

BK201315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that India would strive for an early disarmament and for strengthening the Nonaligned Movement. In an interview to a Bulgarian correspondent, Mr Gandhi said India, like many other countries, is under tremendous pressure from forces which are trying to creat a situation of instability in the country. He, however, expressed confidence that India will stand united and no force on earth can prevent it from marching ahead. He reiterated that the forces of destabilization are still at work in Assam, Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Heavy Voter Turnout at Polls; Violence Occurs

BK241636 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Excerpts] There was a heavy turnout of voters today during the first round of polling in the general elections to the Lok Sabha. Estimates are that about 60 percent of the 28 crore voters exercised their franchise. West Bengal recorded the heaviest turnout of over 70 percent. Polling was also particularly heavy in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

Reports of violence have come in from some places. In Bihar, two people were killed in group clashes. One person died at a village in Gaya District and the other was killed in Muzaffarpur when police opened fire to quell a violent mob. In West Bengal, police had to fire in Beldanga in Murshidabad and Beltala in Calcutta to disperse violent mob. The chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, told newsmen that two of his party supporters were killed in the incident in Beldanga. In Tripura, one person was killed and seven injured in a clash between two groups of people belonging to two different political parties. In two other incidents, at least nine people received injuries.

Reports of booth capturing have also come in from some places. Peaceful polling has been reported from other parts of the country. Today's polling was for 379 Lok Sabha seats spread over 16 states and 6 union territories. It was completed in all these areas, excepting four states which will have a second round of polling on Thursday. Parts of 10 Lok Sabha constituencies in Uttar Pradesh also went to the polls today. Simultaneously, polling was held for Tamil Nadu and Arunachal Pradesh assemblies.

In Tamil Nadu, the average percentage of polling was 65. By and large, polling in the state was peaceful. Between 65 and 70 percent of the voters in Kerala exercised their franchise.

Polling in Karnataka was peaceful and orderly. Young people were [words indistinct] some of the queues of voters. The overall percentage of voting in the state was between 55 and 60 with polling at a low key in north and south of Bangalore constituencies. Over 6,000 voters in Belgaum, Chikkodi, reserved, and Kanara constituencies did not vote to protest against nonimplementation of development schemes.

In West Bengal, polling was brisk right from the morning. State Congress-I leaders have complained of rigging and booth-capturing in many constituencies by Ruling Front supporters. On the other hand, the Communist Party of India-Marxist leader, Mr Saroj Mukherjee, alleged that Congress-I supporters tried to create trouble in three pockets of Malda and 24-Parganas. About 50 percent polling has been reported from Orissa. But in rural areas of Bhubaneswar, it was 60 percent. Polling was heavy in Tripura; 60 percent voters had exercised their franchise by 1430 in the afternoon. In Sikkim, polling was heavy in rural areas. Preliminary reports from Uttar Pradesh say 50 to 60 percent voters exercised their franchise. Polling was heavy in Amethi, Rae Bareli and Allahabad amongst other places. According to information received in Lucknow, some people took away two ballot boxes from a polling booth in Baghpat. A spokesman of the election directorate said a repoll may be ordered after inquiry.

In Bihar, polling in four booths in Badh, Arrah, Muzaffarpur and Gopalganj has been suspended because of snatching of ballot boxes. Over 1,000 antisocial elements were arrested during the day. The overall average of polling in Bihar was between 45 and 50 percent.

Reports reaching Bhopal indicate that there was moderate to brisk polling in Madhya Pradesh. The average was between 35 and 45 percent. Between 50 and 55 percent voters exercised their franchise in Maharashtra and also in Rajasthan.

In Jamu and Kashmir, about 60 percent polling was recorded, according to a preliminary estimate. Polling was by and large peaceful except for minor clashes in some polling booths of Srinagar and Anantnag constituencies. According to the chief electoral officer, repoll has been recommended for at least 14 polling booths in these two constituencies.

Talking to newsmen, the divisional commissioner and deputy inspector general, Kashmir Division, said that police resorted to firing in the air to disperse clashing groups at Lar and Badgam in Srinagar constituency. He said that one person was injured. The situation is under control.

Polling ended peacefully in Himachal Pradesh. Despite extreme cold, between 50 and 60 percent voters turned up to exercise their franchise. At Ghia, in Kullu District, polling was as high as 84 percent.

In Haryana, 90 percent voting was recorded in some of the polling booths in Ambala city and few villages in Gurgaon District. But in Karota village of Mahendergarh constituency, no voter turned up.

Polling in Delhi passed off peacefully. Heavy polling was reported from the old city and Karolbagh. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was amongst the early voters in the capital. In Chandigarh, over 70 percent of the electorates exercised their franchise. Ninety-five percent of the voters turned out at Kayemwala village in the Union Territory. There was a heavy turnout of voters in Arunachal Pradesh also, despite severe cold and snow. About 65 percent voters exercised their franchise in Pondicherry.

The secretary to the Election Commission, Dr R.P. Bhalla, told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that some miscreants [words indistinct] entered the polling booth in Nalanda constituency in Bihar and carried away 620 ballot papers and spoiled 89 of them. Immediately, fresh ballot papers were supplied and polling continued smoothly.

Dr Bhalla said that the chief electoral officer of Bihar reported that the polling was adjourned in one polling station of Gopalganj constituency. Further reports about the cause for adjournment are awaited.

In Haryana, Dr Bhalla said that immediate action was taken on a complaint by the Congress-I about its supporters being prevented from voting at a place in Mahendergarh constituency. In Rae Bareli, the returning officer received news of the death of an independent candidate at 0850 this morning after the polling had started. There was therefore no necessity to stop the polling under the law, he added.

The Congress-I has complained to the election commissioner about rigging and booth capturing in some polling stations in Barrackpore, Calcutta northeast and Calcutta south parliamentary constituencies in West Bengal. The party spokesman, Mr Shrikant Verma, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the Congress-I has urged the election commissioner to order repolling in those booths.

The Bharatiya Janata Party today sent three letters to the chief election commissioner complaining about malpractices in the elections. The allegations include booth capturing in some places in Mahendergarh area in Haryana and misuse of a government helicopter by the Madhya Pradesh chief minister.

Repoll for Lok Sabha

BK251624 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] The Election Commission has ordered repoll in a number of polling stations in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir. This will take place on Thursday along with the other Lok Sabha constituencies where polling is being held in the second stage. The secretary to the commission, Dr Bhalla, told our correspondent in New Delhi a short while ago that repoll has been ordered in 52 polling stations in 10 Lok Sabha constituencies of Bihar. These are Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur, Madhubani, Jhanjharpur, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Saharsa, Bhagalpur, Nalanda, and Buxar. He said repolling has been ordered following reports of snatching away of ballot papers, booth capturing, and other violent incidents in the affected polling stations. Earlier, the commission had ordered repoll in Uttar Pradesh, in three polling stations in Baghpat constituency, and one each in Hamirpur and Amroha. Polling will be recommenced in two polling stations in the Machhlishahr constituency where it was discontinued yesterday for some reasons.

In West Bengal, repoll will be held in three booths, two of them in Berhampore and one in the Calcutta northeast constituency. In Haryana, it will be in two polling stations in Mahendergarh and one in Jammu and Kashmir in the Baramula constituency.

According to the deputy election commissioner, Mr Ramakishnan, a repoll may be ordered in a polling booth in Kendrapara constituency in Orissa. This was necessitated because two ballot boxes had accidentally fallen into a river while the polling party was returning with the boxes in a mechanized boat after the polling was over. Mr Ganesan, who is also a secretary to the commission, disclosed that the Congress-I and Mr Raj Narain who is one of the candidates for the Baghpat seat have complained of booth capturing in the constituency. A similar complaint has also been received from Mr H.N. Bahuguan from the Allahabad constituency. The commission has called for reports from the returning officers of the two constituencies, he said.

Disarmed Grenade Given to Vajpayee; Inquiry Called

BK261008 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] The Congress-I has demanded an inquiry into the incident in which a bouquet of flowers with a grenade concealed in it was presented to the Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, in Gwalior yesterday. In a statement, Mr Madhav Rao Scindia alleged it was an attempt to misguide the voters.

Explosive experts who examined the grenade later said it did not have a detonator and there was no cause for anxiety.

Navy Begins Negotiations for Aircraft Carrier

BK210609 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English
17 Dec 84 p 1

[By "Our Special Representative"]

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 13 — The Defence Ministry has initiated negotiations with the Soviet Union, Britain, France and Italy for acquiring a modern aircraft carrier, latest missiles, sophisticated submarines and the latest weapons system to equip the Indian Navy, it is learnt.

The Indian Navy has just one aircraft carrier "Vikrant," which has been modernized and is expected to last till 1992. The need for another carrier, which can meet the requirements for the next decade, is being felt by the naval authorities.

The Indian naval authorities have also been prompted by the success achieved by the Royal British Navy in the Falkland War through its aircraft carriers. The authorities have recommended to the Defence Ministry that one aircraft carrier be acquired as soon as possible.

The naval authorities have proposed that India go in for an aircraft carrier that could be equipped with Sea Harrier aircraft. The carrier should have a "jumping platform" for the Sea Harriers to take off vertically. The modernized "Vikrant" is equipped with such a platform.

In view of India's requirement, the negotiation with Spain, is reported to have broken down as it does not have an aircraft carrier with a jumping platform. Indian naval experts are evaluating aircraft carriers of Britain, Italy and the Soviet Union.

India's requirement is said to be for an aircraft carrier which is equipped with the latest radar system, avionics and weapons system. The cost of an aircraft carrier reportedly ranges between Rs 250 crores and Rs 450 crores. It is also proposed that an aircraft carrier be acquired from Australia. The cost of this carrier will be less but it is feared that it will be outdated and, therefore, may not meet India's requirement. It is learnt that the naval authorities are looking for an aircraft carrier which can be used for launching the latest missiles and which is anti-submarine. Also it should be anti-missile and missile interceptor.

Though India is acquiring Type 1500 latest submarines from West Germany, the Defence Ministry has been sounded by the Soviet Union that it is ready to supply modern submarines for the Indian Navy. Earlier, Moscow had reservations about supplying submarines. The ministry is now examining the latest Soviet offer.

Talks are reportedly on between the Defence Ministry and France on the one hand and the Soviet Union on the other for acquiring the latest missiles. France has agreed to supply India the latest Exocet-AM-39 missiles. But in view of the proposed acquisition of the deadly Harpoon missiles by Pakistan, the Indian authorities have decided to go in for their equivalent. Negotiations with the Soviet Union, France, Britain and some other countries are on in this connexion. It may be recalled that India has already finalized an agreement with Britain for acquisition of the armed helicopter, Sea King. Itis reported that Britain has also agreed to supply India Sea Eagle missiles by next year.

USSR Buys Grain, Rejects Hard Currency Trade

BK210647 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 10 Dec 84 p 6

[By *EXPRESS* News Service]

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 9 — India will sell 0.5 million tonne wheat to the Soviet Union in 1985 as part of the Indo-Soviet trade protocol for 1985 now finalised. The Soviet Union, in fact, had asked for three million tonnes of wheat, but India expressed inability to supply this quantity.

According to the Soviet Deputy Trade Minister, Mr I. T. Grishin, Soviet Union was prepared to buy as much quantity of grains as India could supply. He told a news conference here on Saturday that since Soviet Union had to import grains, India could be a "permanent supplier of grains" to his country. Mr Grishin said there was considerable demand in Soviet Union for Indian agricultural products like fruits and juices. He wanted India to enter into a long-term agreement with his country for supply of grains and other agricultural products. If such an agreement which could last till the end of the century was signed, Soviet Union could invest by way of agricultural machinery in India to increase India's agricultural production for exports to his country, he added.

Mr Grishin, who led a trade delegation to finalise the 1985 protocol and discuss the five-year trade agreement for 1986-1990, ruled out the possibility of the two countries switching over to hard currency from the present rupee trade arrangement. He said any switch-over to hard currency would force the two-way trade to fall to very low levels. Mr Grishin warned that, if the rupee trade was abolished, Indian exporters would find it hard to enter the Soviet market. If hard currency was to be paid, then the Soviet Union might turn to European countries for import of several items now being imported from India. For instance, Soviet Union was now the largest buyer of Indian knitwear and in the absence of rupee trade it could buy the knitwear from elsewhere.

Zia Says Election Date To Be Announced Soon

BK251033 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said he would shortly announce the date for general elections. Talking to newsmen at Lahore airport on his arrival this morning, he said the election's date and the election's schedule would be discussed and approved at a meeting of the federal Cabinet tomorrow. He said the elections scheduled will be announced afterward by the chief election commissioner. The president said that the decision whether the elections will be held on party or nonparty basis will also be announced with the election's date.

Referring to the mandate given to him by the people in the referendum, the president said the question whether the country is to be an Islamic state has been finally and categorically decided by the people by supporting the Islamic system of government. The second objective of the referendum, he said, was to seek the people's mandate to take some important decisions before the elections. These include the basis of the elections and certain important amendments in the 1973 constitution.

The president said now that the people had expressed their full confidence in his policies, it was his duty to serve Islam and the country and to solve the problems of the people. In this connection, he particularly mentioned the curse of bribery which must be eliminated from an Islamic state. He said the government would do everything possible to curb bribery and corruption.

In reply to a question about the possibility of his meeting with the politicians, he said his doors were always open for all of them. They will also be invited for exchange of views. Earlier, on arrival at Lahore airport, the president was accorded a colorful and tumultuous welcome.

AFP: Opposition Stages Protest in Karachi

HK251022 Hong Kong AFP in English 1005 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Karachi, Dec 25 (AFP) — Opponents of President Muhammad Ziaul Haq today staged a peaceful protest against the December 19 referendum which backed extended Islamic laws in Pakistan, in spite of an army ban and the arrests of several opposition leaders last night.

The demonstrators were prevented by police from marching beyond the rally site at the mausoleum here of Pakistan's first leader, Mohammad Ali Jinnah. But police did not use force and the crowd dispersed. At least four arrests were made.

Among those arrested last night were leaders of the 11-party alliance which called the rally, the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD), including its Secretary-General Khawaja Khairuddin.

Speakers today charged that the referendum, in which President Zia received 97 percent approval, was rigged and its results "bogus."

They also denounced President Zia's military regime and called for the restoration of democracy and elections under the 1973 constitution.

President Zia had indicated before the referendum he would regard a "yes" vote as a five-year extension of his presidency.

December 25, the late Mr Jinnah's birthday, is a national holiday in Pakistan. Today was the 108th anniversary of his birth.

Other MRD leaders arrested last night were Former Chief Minister of Sind Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, and National Democratic Party chief Sher Baz Mazari, both put under house arrest ahead of the rally which they were to address. Among others arrested last night were the Karachi President of the outlawed Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Nasiruddin Khan, former PPP Provincial Minister Ali Ahmed Soomro, and the president of the left-wing Mazdoor-Kissan (Labour-Peasant) Party, Fatehyab Ali Khan.

The PPP was led by executed Former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

6 Policemen Injured in Lahore Disturbance

BK220239 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] According to a press item, there was an unlawful assembly of political elements in front of Noori Mosque at Lahore before Friday prayers yesterday, at which speeches were made and the gathering was incited to violence. A group also tried to set a bus on fire. The item says that a procession took place, but when the people participating in the procession were asked to disperse, they started stoning the police. Six policemen and four or five members of the public sustained minor injuries. The item says that the law-and-order machinery resorted to a mild attack with nightsticks and fired two tear gas shells to disperse the crowd.

'Strong Protests' Filed on DRA Air Intrusions

22 Dec Incident

BK231547 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the Kabul authorities over the violation of Pakistani airspace by an Afghan aircraft yesterday. The aircraft intruded up to 9 miles in the Imambostan area of Baluchistan between 1040 and 1055 [0540 to 0555 GMT] yesterday morning and fired on a (?vehicle). Luckily, there was no loss of life or property as a result of the strafing.

Pakistan's protest was handed to the Afghan charge d'affaires, who was asked to inform the Kabul authorities that the Government of Pakistan vehemently condemns these repeated violations by the Afghanistan side. He was also asked to convey to the Kabul authorities that they should desist from such provocative actions, failing which they will be solely responsible for the consequences.

The UN secretary general has also been notified about this violation.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Government has described as totally false and baseless the Kabul administration's allegation that Pakistani Armed Forces fired across the border toward the Berikowt region of Konar Province, killing one Kabul regime officer, injuring eight soldiers, and damaging three houses. The Afghan charge d'affaires, who was handed Pakistan's denial statement this evening, was told that continued leveling of such false and mischievous allegations by the Kabul authorities is highly regrettable.

25 Dec Attack

BK261043 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Pakistan has protested with the Kabul authorities against fresh incursions by military aircraft [words indistinct] into Pakistan's airspace.

The violation was committed by six Afghan aircraft 3 km inside the Arandu area of Chitral yesterday morning. The aircraft dropped eight bombs and some rockets, as a result of which four civilians were killed and six wounded. Some houses were also damaged.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad and a strong protest was lodged with him. His attention was drawn to the tensions along Pakistan's western frontiers and destabilization of peace and security in the region as a result of the Kabul regime's dangerous and provocative violations.

The serious concern of the government and people of Pakistan was conveyed to him and he was warned that the Kabul regime would be responsible for the ensuing consequences.

The UN secretary general, too, has been informed of this latest violation by Kabul.

SRI LANKA

Cabinet Abandons Roundtable Conference Proposals

HK260936 Hong Kong AFP in English 0849 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Colombo, Dec 26 (AFP) The Sri Lankan Cabinet today abandoned proposals which emerged from a national roundtable conference on the island's separatist crisis, a cabinet spokesman said.

The proposals involved greater district autonomy to satisfy minority Tamil aspirations in the troubled north and east of the country.

The cabinet decided not to continue discussions on the proposals since the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) had publicly disavowed them, the spokesman said.

The cabinet instead asked President Junius Jayewardene to continue his efforts to find a political solution to the crisis which has left 404 dead, according to official figures, in the latest wave of separatist violence which began on November 19.

Security Minister Outlines Military Operations

BK241650 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Security forces conducted a massive combing-out operations in the Mullaittivu District during the last 4 or 5 days. It was carried out in the areas where terrorists had earlier attacked civilian citizens in the Mahigamapattu and the adjoining areas of Kikkialai and Nayaru. Civilians have fled from these areas and they were being occupied by terrorists.

The minister of National Security, Lalith Athulathmudali, told a news conference in Colombo today that the security forces were compelled to reoccupy these areas. The combing-out operations covered the entire region around the Dollar and Kent farms as well as the traditional settlements around Kokkilai and Nayaru. They were designed to clear the entire areas of terrorists. The military presence there is now well established. The minister also said that intelligence reports indicate that the security forces had cornered the people who were involved in the land mine incident in which four army personnel had died. Earlier reports had said that this incident had occurred at Padaviya, but the exact location was near the Mannaram farm. Information regarding the number of terrorists who had died in this incident is very much more than four — that of the number of casualties.

Mr Athulathmudali disclosed a new phase in terrorist activity. Yesterday, they robbed food stamps and burned them at Chinnavelli in Jaffna. He described this as a direct attack on the poor people. It makes a mockery of a statement made by some quarters that Jaffna was starving when the terrorists can afford the luxury of burning food stamps. The value of the destroyed food stamps is estimated at 15,000 rupees. The terrorists have decided to escalate their action. A Tamim Eelam Liberation Organization group had given a warning that by 31st December they are going to get rid of the army from the north. The minister also disclosed that a terrorist leader, Samratnam, is now in Sri Lanka.

Answering a question, the minister said that after the India election, he hoped there would be time to discuss matters with that country. Although the two countries may disagree on certain matters, the dialogue between India and Sri Lanka had continued and that, he said, was a good thing. Apart from this problem, we have no other issues with India. There is a strong desire on our side that we should keep the good relationship between the two countries. Mr Athulathmudali reiterated that government had always said that it was not seeking a military solution. All they were doing was replying to terrorist action. He pointed out that in the light of the Tamil United Liberation Front publicly rejecting the proposals emanating from the all-party conference, but not communicating their views by letter, there was no alternative but for the government to take a decision taking rejection into account. It was his view that it was a premature rejection of the proposals by the TULF.

From March this year, the number of suspected persons arrested in the Jaffna peninsula was 3,388; 2,784 were released after interrogation. The number of persons detained is 604, of which 103 persons were hardcore terrorists. The security forces have also been able to recover more weapons in the last 9 months or so.

AFP: Tamil Separatists Attack Army Base

HK220826 Hong Kong AFP in English 0816 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Colombo, Dec 22 (AFP) — Tamil separatists have launched a big attack on an army base and elsewhere security forces killed two suspected separatists student leaders in northern Sri Lanka, officials said today.

The students, shot dead in a joint attack by army and navy forces, were responsible for several "lamppost" killings, in which informers or rival militants are left tied to lampposts in busy streets after being killed, informed sources said.

They belonged to the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), which has killed many security force members and pulled off several bank robberies, the state ministry said. The attack took place yesterday at Mutur, near Trincomalee.

Meanwhile separatists attacked an army camp at Point Pedro at the northern tip of the Jaffna penisula late yesterday, official sources said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that army fire drove the attackers away with 2-inch mortars without any casulaties being known. It was the first major attack on an army camp since the current wave of separatist violence started just over a month ago killing at least 403 persons by official count.

The separatists are fighting for independence for the north and east of the country, where Sri Lanka's Tamil community is concentrated.

Meanwhile there was no news of two police inspectors allegedly abducted by separatists in Jaffna yesterday.

No separatist group has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of the policemen at Jaffna railway station, officials said. They were bundled into a van, later found abandoned, as they were about to board a train to Colombo.

Tracker dogs led police to a wall by a Jaffna University hostel but then lost the trail of the two men, officials said.

The major Tamil party, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), has appealed to the abductors not to harm the men.

The president and general secretary of the TULF called for their unconditional release and said the kidnapping was a "slur on the Tamil race."

Mr. Athulathmudali said today that the Army had occupied the Sinhalese fishing village of Kokkilai, which was abandoned after separatists attacked it and another nearby village killing 13 persons early this month.

Early this week separatists occupied the village again and hoisted their flag.

The minister did not give details of the Army move into the village but informed sources said it was entered without a fight.

Police Inspector Shot Dead by Terrorists
BK251609 Colombo Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Inspector of police Gyanaprakasham, of Kayts police station, temporarily attached to Jaffna, was shot dead by terrorists this afternoon at his residence in Allaikote. At the time of his death, he was celebrating Christmas with his family.

President Appoints New Industries Minister
BK241350 Colombo Domestic Service in English
1245 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] President Jayewardene has appointed the member for Negombo, Denzil Fernando, as the new minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs. Mr Fernando took oath this morning before the president at the Janadhipathi Mandiriya [presidential palace] in Colombo. This follows the removal of Mr Cyril Mathew, the minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs.

The president, in a letter to Mathew, has pointed out that Mr Mathew's criticism of the proposals of the all-party conference is a violation of rules and convention of cabinet government. Mr Jayewardene reminded Mr Mathew that he had even earlier explained to all cabinet ministers these rules. The president said that it appeared that Mr Mathew, having a broad awareness of cabinet traditions and principles, had deliberately violated those traditions. Mr Jayewardene was also of the view that all these indicate that Mr Mathew had decided not to remain in the cabinet. The president had pointed out that he had given many occasions to Minister Mathew to express his views, though such views had put the president, the other cabinet ministers, and the party into a difficult situation.

According to the president's letter, a copy of (?application) by Mr Mathew and addressed to all cabinet ministers and members of Parliament had reached the president through a messenger on the 21st afternoon. When Minister Mathew contacted the president at [words indistinct] he had not indicated that he would either express his views to the public or a copy of a letter would be sent to Mr Jayewardene. The president said that if there had been such mention, he could have invited Mr Mathew to meet him. The president, while expressing his regret for the action taken by Mr Mathew, had said that he never expected Mr Mathew to resort to such a course of action.

Khamene'i Speaks at Ground Forces Ceremony

LD221637 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA — President of the Islamic Republic and head of the Supreme Defence Council 'Ali Khamene'i said here today that the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are proud that they are righteously defending Islam with the weapon of faith and determination in a most crucial battle for Islam's ascendancy over oppressor and ungodly powers.

Speaking at a ground forces promotion ceremony, the president added that the Armed Forces are united and inseparable from the people.

He further said that the army commanders are devoted to their tasks of defending the country's territorial integrity, further noting that because they have embraced the people, they fully understand the people's sufferings.

President Khamene'i furthermore said that Iran, under the shadow of integrity and brotherhood, will be able to bring the biggest powers to their knees. He added that those countries having superior weapons and larger populations could not hurt Iran, because "we believe in our way and are prepared to continue it, and this is the secret of the victory of our nation as well as of all nations against the superpowers."

Velayati Meets Khamene'i, Musavi-Khamene'i

LD231146 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with President 'Ali Khamene'i today following his return from the 15th ministerial meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Sanaa.

Dr. Velayati also had a separate meeting today with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i on the results of his trip.

His president was briefed on the activities of the Iranian delegation at the OIC meeting, including its achievements in presenting a number of Islamic proposals and efforts to block motions against the Islamic Republic.

Bombings Occur in Downtown Tehran 25, 26 Dec

25 Dec Explosion

LD251705 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA — A bomb planted inside a vehicle exploded 100 metres from Shoush Square in downtown Tehran tonight.

Initial reports said at the time of the explosion, 19:15 (1545 GMT), a number of people were stepping into an empty double-deck bus at a near-by bus station and at least one of them was martyred.

26 Dec Explosion

LD260710 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26, IRNA — A bomb explosion in Mowlavi Ave., downtown Tehran, on Wednesday caused damages but no casualties.

During the explosion, took place at 06:20 local time (0250 GMT) four vehicles were smashed and a number of shops and houses damaged.

Bomb defusing experts estimated that about 10 pounds of explosives were used in the bomb which was planted in a stream beside a garbage can.

So far no report is published on the arrest of the agent or agents involved in the explosion.

On Tuesday night a powerful bomb exploded in Shoush Square, another area in downtown Tehran, which claimed the lives of four people and injured 50 others.

The bomb, made of about 20 to 25 kgs of explosives, was planted in taxi cab which was parked in front of a small hotel.

Death Toll

LD260912 Tehran IRNA in English 0902 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA — The number of martyrs of the Tuesday evening bomb blast in Shoush Square, downtown Tehran, rose to six according to the latest report.

The bomb, planted in a taxi in front of a small hotel, exploded at 19:15 local time (1545 GMT), martyring four and injuring 50 others.

Police said that the bomb contained 20 to 25 pounds of explosives which also damaged 40 buildings.

Meanwhile, the Wednesday morning explosion in the Mowlavi Street, downtown Tehran, was caused by a concussion bomb planted in between two cars in an alley, a source at the Islamic Revolution's committee told IRNA.

The explosion caused slight damages and only a passerby was injured by flying glasses, the source added.

U.S. 'Agents' Plant Bomb

LD251921 Tehran IRNA in English 1918 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA — Terrorist agents of the United States planted a bomb in a taxi cab that exploded in a crowded district of Tehran Tuesday night, martyring at least 4 people and injuring 50 others, including a woman and her new born child.

Police experts estimated that 20 to 25 pounds of explosives were packed in the car which was parked in front of a small hotel near Shoush Square, a relatively poor and crowded area of the city.

The experts also said much of the explosive power was absorbed by an empty double-deck bus a few metres away from the car. More than 40 buildings were damaged in various degrees. The United States had warned earlier that it would take revenge against the Islamic Republic for its support for "international terrorism," following the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner to Tehran two weeks ago. The hijacking came to an end after the Iranian security forces stormed the aircraft and arrested the hijackers. Iranian authorities have said the hijackers would be tried.

Majlis Deputy on Kuwaiti Airliner Hijackers

LD241235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1155 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Hadi Ghaffari, Tehran deputy and member of the Majlis Budget and Planning Commission, participated in a phone-in program of Majlis deputies for the people. One of the questions asked by a member of the public on this program was selected for you to listen to:

[Begin Recording] [Ghaffari] Greetings.

[Unidentified Listener] Greetings. Mr Ghaffari, may I ask you a question about the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner?

[Ghaffari] Please do.

[Listener] My question is in two parts: First, does the Islamic Republic of Iran plan to hand over the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner to Kuwaiti officials?

[Ghaffari] I will answer this first. The hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner will be dealt with according to the verdict of our courts and our judicial branch. We are not Kuwait's slaves and do not have bilateral treaties or commitments with Kuwait. If the hijackers are to be handed over, first the world arrogance should hand over to us the hijackers of our planes and those who commanded the military operations in Tabas to attack Iran, to violate the airspace of Iran, and to attack our Islamic principles. All the terrorist leaders should be handed over first, then we can talk about whether we will hand over these hijackers or not.

[Listener] My second question is: If we do not hand them over, how will they be put on trial and what is the maximum sentence they can expect from us?

[Ghaffari] That would be up to the judicial branch. I can not comment.

[Listener] Thank you. I wish you success. [end recording]

Majlis Committee Calls for USSR Pullout From DRA

LD251424 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] On the eve of the anniversary of the occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet forces, the Foreign Policy Committee of the Majlis issued the following statement:

Five years of resistance by the Muslim people of Afghanistan against the aggressor Soviet forces is a glorious example of the lack of compromise by the Islamic ummah in the face of aggression and occupation in any form. The extent of this resistance and the despondency of the occupying force is a clear promise of the victory of Islam.

The Majlis Foreign Policy Committee considers it necessary to point out the following on the anniversary of the occupation of Afghanistan:

Afghanistan is part of the Islamic world; the issue of Afghanistan is an Islamic issue, and support for the struggles of the people of Afghanistan is an Islamic duty for each and every Muslim.

The immediate, unconditional exit of the occupation forces is a prerequisite to solving the issue of Afghanistan and guaranteeing the freedom of the Afghan Muslim nation to determine its own fate and establish its desired system.

Any interference by the arrogant will undermine the noble and unified struggle of the people of Afghanistan and will prepare the ground for the continuation of the present state of suppression and aggression.

The continuation of the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union will constantly cast a shadow on the relations between the Muslim and oppressed world and the Soviet Union and threaten its peaceful and sincere development.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

No 1,951

LD241502 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24, IRNA — Seven Iraqi soldiers were killed in Haj-Omran and another five in border fronts near Marivan as artillery fire was traded between the Iranian forces and the Iraqi troops on Sunday.

A military communique published here today by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and numbered 1951 said that sporadic artillery fire continued in many of the battlefronts on Sunday during which the Iranian troops inflicted material and human casualties upon the Iraqi soldiers.

In Haj-Omran two larger bunkers of the Iraqi forces were levelled, and elsewhere in the western fronts the Iranian forces checked patrol operations of the Iraqi troops setting ablaze three enemy vehicles and several larger bunkers of the Iraqi troops.

Artillery fire raged heavier in Zobaidat, Talaiyeh, Kushk and Majnoon Islands, where three larger bunkers of the Iraqi forces were demolished, and three of their tanks were damaged.

On Sunday also six houses and two shops were damaged under long-range artillery fire of the Iraqi forces from across the border.

No 1,952
LD251627 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA — Iran's muslim combatants defended their positions and rained fire on enemy troops and positions, interrupting and paralyzing their ground movements in the northwestern front Monday.

According to the Joint Staff Command Communique No. 1952, issued today, the Iraqi aggressive army suffered 20 dead or wounded, while 10 of their weaponry positions and 3 observation posts were destroyed.

In the western front, Iran's Muslim combatants patrolled their areas while artillery duels continued with Iranian gunners bombarding Iraqi columns and supply routes. Four trucks, 15 bunkers and one observation post were destroyed in this area and 30 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded.

In the southern front, the Muslim troops of Iran deployed defensive tactics and opened fire on Iraqi concentration sites killing and or wounding an unknown number of enemy soldiers.

The cross fire in the vicinity of Arvand River left one Iraqi observation post and a group bunker destroyed.

The city of Abadan came under Iraqi bombardment Monday, in which five houses were damaged.

1,500 Mobilization Force Troops Depart for Front
LD251107 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Unit, more than 1,500 of the combatant brothers from the Mobilization Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Bakhtaran region left for the front in the war between right and wrong. This followed anemotional and enthusiastic gathering of the Hezbollahi to help those on the front lines of Islam to fight against the infidel aggressors of Saddam.

Iranian Clandestine on Guards Corps Repression
GF251900 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The Islamic Republic regime has embarked on repression of the Guards. Twenty-three prominent Guards Corps members have been arrested in various parts of the country on the instructions of the Mullahs. Strict control has been imposed on the Guards Corps and various units are being checked.

Arrests and executions of Guards by Mullahs have been made on charges of plotting against the Islamic Republic. According to the Free Voice of Iran correspondent, Asghar Yekravan, the Revolution Guards deputy in Fars Province; Hamed Hanafi; and 'Azim Tahaqqoq, the chief of investigations and information of the Guards Corps, have been executed. The Mullah regime's authorities have not given any explanation for these executions.

The same report adds that the Mullahs have expelled many Guards from this Corps. Executions, arrests, and expulsion of Guards is the first step in a campaign to purge this corps of antiregime elements.